

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A copper foil for use in laser beam drilling, comprising: a copper foil having a surface through which a laser beam enters, a particle layer formed on at least said surface of said copper foil, said particle layer being formed of particles that are about 0.01 to 3 μm ~~thick~~ in size, being plated on said surface and including at least one metal, said metal including copper.

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Claim 2 (previously presented): A copper foil according to claim 1, further comprising an over-plated coating which is formed on said particle layer without changing a surface configuration of said particle layer.

Claim 3 (new): A copper foil according to claim 2, wherein said over-plated coating is selected from a group consisting of Ni, Co, Sn, Zn, In and alloys thereof.

Claim 4 (new): A copper foil according to claim 3, wherein said particle layer includes at least one of Ni, Co, Sn, Zn, In and alloys thereof.

Claim 5 (new): A copper foil according to claim 2, wherein said over-plated coating consists of one or more of Ni, Co, Sn and In.

Claim 6 (new): A copper foil according to claim 1, wherein said particle layer includes at least one of Ni, Co, Sn, Zn, In and alloys thereof.

Claim 7 (new): A method of drilling a hole in a copper foil, comprising the steps of:
electro-plating a particle layer on a surface of the copper foil, said particle layer including at least one metal and being formed of particles that are each about 0.01 to 3 μm in size, said at least one metal including copper; and
drilling a microhole through said copper foil with a laser beam, said laser beam entering said copper foil through said particle layer.

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Claim 8 (new): A method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of plating an over-coating on said particle layer before said drilling step, said over-coating being formed on said particle layer without changing a surface configuration of said particle layer.

Claim 9 (new): A method according to claim 8, wherein said over-coating is a metal selected from a group consisting of Ni, Co, Sn, Zn, In and alloys thereof.

Claim 10 (new): A method according to claim 9, wherein said particle layer includes at least one of Ni, Co, Sn, Zn, In and alloys thereof.

Claim 11 (new): A method according to claim 8, wherein said over-plated coating consists of one or more of Ni, Co, Sn and In.

Claim 12 (new): A method according to claim 7, wherein said particle layer includes at least one of Ni, Co, Sn, Zn, In and alloys thereof.